



DANIEL



Chapter 1

Capitulate or Conquer

Decline of Judah/Fall of Jerusalem

In 721 BC the Northern Kingdom of Israel with its capital city, Samaria had been smashed and its population scattered to the winds by the Assyrians.

The southern kingdom of Judah with its capital city, Jerusalem, had been spared.

As the Assyria empire begins to collapse, Egypt seeks to assert its dominance by attacking Judah in 609 BC.

King Josiah, hopelessly outnumbered, meets the Egyptians at Megiddo (near Mount Carmel) and was defeated.

Josiah was slain in the battle. Pharaoh Neco captured Josiah's son and heir, Shallum (also called Coniah), and deported him to Egypt.

Decline of Judah/Fall of Jerusalem

The people then appoint Josiah's younger son Jehoahaz as king.

But he is deposed by the Egyptians for his brother Jehoiakim (Eliakim).

In 605 BC Nebuchadnezzar enters the scene and he attacks Jerusalem for the 1st time taking a group of captives - Daniel is taken.

Jehoiachin succeeds his father Jehoiakim - Nebuchadnezzar attacks Jerusalem a 2nd time 597 BC – 2nd group of captives – Ezekiel and the vessels of the Lord's house are taken.

Zedekiah (last King), uncle of Jehoiachin ascends the throne - Nebuchadnezzar attacks Jerusalem a 3rd time 588 BC. Zedekiah's sons are all slain, and his eyes are put out.

Decline of Judah/Fall of Jerusalem

Daniel sums all this up in 1 verse. “In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it.”

But the question is, WHY did this happen? Verse 2 tells us:

Answer: “***the Lord***”—that is, Yahweh, the God of Israel—“*delivered Jehoiakim king of Judah into [Nebuchadnezzar’s] hand.*” Daniel 1:2

And all of this was foretold to Jeremiah by God - Jeremiah 25

The Last 5 Kings of Judah

1 Chronicles 3:15+

2 Kings 23:31-36

Matthew 1:11+

5th

JOSIAH

Johanah

3rd

Zedekiah -
Mattaniah

Last

Jehoahaz - Shallum

4th

Jehoiachin - Jeconiah

2nd

Shealtiel

"of the family of Zedekiah"

Zerubbabel



Davidic Covenant: God promised

David that his house, his kingdom, his

throne would endure ...forever.

2 Samuel 7:8-16

Joseph, the husband
of Mary

739-681 **ISAIAH**

733-701 Micah

650-620 Nahum

636-623 Zephaniah

621-609 Habakkuk

Israel's SOVEREIGN GOD

627

JEREMIAH

574

593

EZEKIEL

559

536

EZRA

516

605^{BC}

595

586

575

565

555

545

535

516

1 2

3

4

7

8

5

6

9

10-12

DANIEL

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Jewish Captivity

DESOLATION of JERUSALEM

Neo-Babylonian Empire

Nebuchadnezzar II

Medo-Persian Empire

Nabonidus Belshazzar

Cyrus II

Cambyses

Darius I

539^{BC}

Artaxerxes

usurper

522^{BC}

The LAST 5 KINGS of JUDAH

Josiah
640-609

Jehoiakim
609-597

Zedekiah
597-586



Jehoahaz
3 mos.

Jehoiachin
3 mos.

622^{BC}



Daniel's Overarching Theme

Daniel's faith is as Joseph's was. Joseph could tell his brothers that what they did (and intended to do) was "*for evil.*" But behind it all, God "*intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives*" (Gen 50:20).

The book of Daniel opens with this apparent contradiction between faith and facts, to show us the response of a few young men who managed not only to survive, but to adjust to the new realities and maintain the integrity of their faith.

Their God, they were able to affirm, was still in control, even in a world that seemed out of control.

Nebuchadnezzar's Method

Take

Take the young, who are moldable.

Remove

Remove them from their authorities, who could influence them for right.

Isolate

Isolate them in a foreign environment.

Give

Give them a free education, teach them, train them; make them feel indebted.

Provide

Provide them good food and tempt them with the riches and power that could be theirs.

Wipe out

Wipe out all vestiges of their past belief and practice by giving them new names.

The World's Method

Take

Take the young, who are moldable.

Remove

Remove them from their authorities, who could influence them for right.

Isolate

Isolate them in a foreign environment.

Give

Give them a free education, teach them, train them; make them feel indebted.

Provide

Provide them good food and tempt them with the riches and power that could be theirs.

Wipe out

Wipe out all vestiges of their past belief and practice by giving them new names.

CHAPTER 1 – BREAK DOWN

- 1) Problems at Hand vs. 1-7
- 2) Purpose of their Hearts vs. 8-16
- 3) Promotion from Heaven vs. 17-21

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- 1) Problems at Hand vs. 1-7
 - 1) New Home
 - 2) New Knowledge
 - 3) New Diet
 - 4) New Names
- 2) Purpose of their Hearts vs. 8-16
- 3) Promotion from Heaven vs. 17-21

CHAPTER 1 – BREAK DOWN

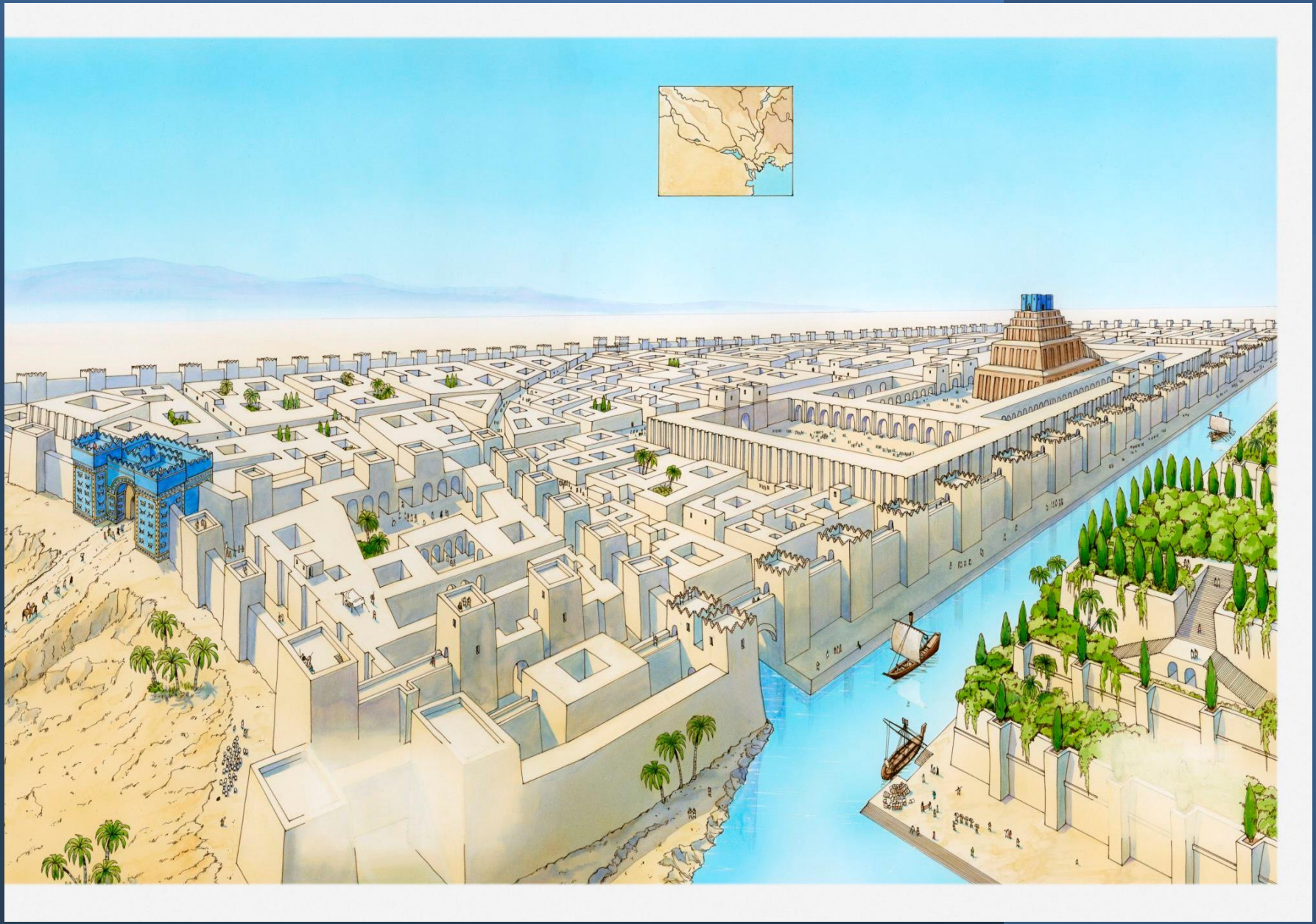
- 1) Problems at Hand vs. 1-7
- 2) Purpose of their Hearts vs. 8-16
 - 1) Their Dedication
 - 2) Their Desire
 - 3) Their Disposition
- 3) Promotion from Heaven vs. 17-21

CHAPTER 1 – BREAK DOWN

- 1) Problems at Hand vs. 1-7
- 2) Purpose of their Hearts vs. 8-16
- 3) Promotion from Heaven vs. 17-21
 - 1) Their Experience
 - 2) Their Excellence
 - 3) Their Endurance

PROBLEMS AT HAND vs. 1-7

- New Home: vs. 1-2
 - Daniel was likely only 14 yrs. old when taken as a slave to Babylon.
 - He, and his friends find themselves 1000 miles from home – in Babylon.
 - He would spend all his life here.







PROBLEMS AT HAND vs. 1-7

- New Home: vs. 1-2
 - What was Babylon like? What did it stand for?
 - What was the philosophy of the nation?
 - *“Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth.” Gen. 11:4*



PROBLEMS AT HAND vs. 1-7

- New Home: vs. 1-2
 - The Bible is ‘A Tale of 2 Cities’.
 - **Jerusalem and Babylon!**
 - Abraham, (Daniel’s ancestor), who was from this same Mesopotamian area: *“looked for the city ... whose builder and maker is God.”* Heb. 11:10
 - However, due to their sin the Jews were taken back to where they began.
 - ‘Be careful you just might get what you asked for’.

PROBLEMS AT HAND vs. 1-7

- New Home: vs. 1-2
 - Daniel may have lived **IN** Babylon, but he lived **FOR** Jerusalem!
 - “our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ” Phil. 3:20

PROBLEMS AT HAND vs. 1-7

- New Home: vs. 1-2
 - It would be easy to conform – just fit in – be like all the others.
 - Heb. 10:25 *“not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”*
 - 1 Cor. 15:33 *“Do not be deceived: “Bad company ruins good morals.””*

PROBLEMS AT HAND vs. 1-7

- New Knowledge: vs. 3-4
 - New language – because of the tower!
 - New literature - ways of looking at life.
 - No longer Jewish wisdom. Now, they are being taught the wisdom of Babylon.
 - Today – God is outdated, ancient and intolerant.
 - But Daniel remembered:
 - *“Forever, O LORD, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens.”*
Psa. 119:89
 - *“The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.”* Isa. 40:8

PROBLEMS AT HAND vs. 1-7

- New Diet: vs.5
 - Most likely, this food was unclean and most of the meat had probably been sacrificed to idols.
 - Therefore, it would have defiled these men and made them unclean before the Lord. Also, wine was forbidden for Levites.
 - *“But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.”* 1 Cor. 9:27
 - *“I will set nothing wicked before my eyes; I hate the work of those who fall away; It shall not cling to me.”* Ps. 101:3

PROBLEMS AT HAND vs. 1-7

- New Names: vs. 6-7
 - When these young men arrived in Babylon, they came carrying wonderful names.
 - Each with it a testimony to the person of God.
 - Daniel - God is my judge
 - Hananiah - God is gracious
 - Mishael - God is without equal
 - Azariah - The Lord is my helper
 - A gospel message in the meaning of these names!

New Names

Daniel to Belteshazzar:

- God is my judge → Bel, protect the king.

Hananiah to Shadrach:

- The Lord is gracious → command of Aku (Babylonian moon god).

Mishael to Meshach:

- Who is like the Lord → who is like Aku.

Azariah to Abed-nego:

- The Lord has helped → servant of Nebo.

PROBLEMS AT HAND vs. 1-7

- New Names: vs. 6-7
 - Remember Babylon said, “*let us make a name for ourselves*” Gen. 11:4
 - Do we know the names of those who constructed the tower? They have long since been forgotten.
 - But God said to Abraham, “*I will bless you and make your name great*” Gen 12:2
 - Via this man’s “*offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.*” Gen. 22:18
 - Abraham’s name was used in the declaration of Christ’s deity.

PROBLEMS AT HAND vs. 1-7

- New Names: vs. 6-7
 - What about your name?
 - The world may take your good name and call you something you do not wish – we have little control over what the world calls us.
 - But in a coming day the Lord will give us each a new name He has chosen for us.
 - The Lord says, *“I will give him ... a new name ... that no one knows except the one who receives it.”* Rev. 2:17

PURPOSE OF THEIR HEARTS vs. 6-18

- Their Dedication: vs. 8
 - The Babylonians could change their homes, their diets, their names, and their education, but they could not change their hearts!
 - *“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” Rom. 12:1-2*

PURPOSE OF THEIR HEARTS vs. 6-18

- Their Dedication: vs. 8
 - They could not control what they were called by others, but they could control themselves – whether they would follow God or be defiled.
 - Are we trying to make a name for ourselves in the world or are we awaiting God's name?
 - Daniel had seen the vessels of the Lord carried away and defiled in a false god's temple but - he, also a vessel of the Lord - would not be defiled!

PURPOSE OF THEIR HEARTS vs. 6-18

- Their Dedication: vs. 8
 - We need to dedicate ourselves to God and His plan for our lives, even if it costs us our lives! Our duty is to faithfully serve the Lord with all we have and are, the details are His to resolve:
 - *“Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.”*
1 Cor. 15:58
 - *“Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.”* 1 Cor 4:2

PURPOSE OF THEIR HEARTS vs. 6-18

- Their Desire: vs. 9-14
 - Now came the first 'Clinical Trial' of history.
 - They could not refuse names, but they would refuse defiling.
 - Furthermore, the food would have symbolized 'a covenant loyalty' to the king.
 - The proposed vegetarian diet was counter intuitive, but it was the path the Lord would have them to take.
 - *“seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”* Matt. 6:33

PURPOSE OF THEIR HEARTS vs. 6-18

- Their Disposition: vs. 15-16
 - Daniel and his friends were found to be “*fatter in flesh*” vs. 15 and God was found faithful.
 - “*The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.*” Lam. 3:23
 - “*As surely as God is faithful...*” 2 Cor. 1:18

PROMOTION FROM HEAVEN vs. 17-21

- Their Experience: vs. 17

- “God gave Jehoiakim into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar” v. 2

God's National Sovereignty

- “God gave Daniel favor and mercy before the official in charge” v. 9

God's Personal Sovereignty

- “God gave to these 4 young men knowledge and understanding in all literature and wisdom” v. 17

God's Global Sovereignty

PROMOTION FROM HEAVEN vs. 17-21

- Their Excellence: vs. 18-20
 - 3 years later they were found head and shoulders above all the others.
 - This was not a “one and done” – they remained faithful.
 - “... those who honor Me, I will honor” 1 Sam. 2:30

PROMOTION FROM HEAVEN vs. 17-21

- Their Endurance: vs. 21
 - “*Daniel was there until the first year of King Cyrus*” vs. 21
 - The very empire that had destroyed Israel in vs. 1, has itself been destroyed and replaced in the last verse.
 - But Daniel survived, and so did His people, the people of Yahweh, God of Israel.